

Chapter 1 : Author Adele Griffin biography and book list

"Tighter" by Adele Griffin only deserves two stars for many reasons. The beginning was so good and it got me hooked right away. But after a certain point, Griffin was just repeating the same material over and over again.

Short Fiction - July So much good fiction this month! Read it here in Flash Fiction Online. Mash Stories runs a quarterly contest in which writers are given three words that must appear in the story in that exact form i. In any case, I thought that this story had a unique construction, and I loved the use of numbers throughout. It gives the story the same meaning but more so, and with a different flow. I also want to give a shout-out to another short-listed story from this same quarter: And I absolutely adored it. Jerry Weiss and Helen S. Weiss, with a descriptive blurb that says "award-winning authors sharing real-life experiences through fiction. What did I love about this story? I love the characters, and I love the way X-ray deals with the girls in a way that is realistic and human yet strong. I also enjoyed reading Ms. For me as a reader, that absolutely feels like the right choice. If X-ray were telling the story, it might have unintentionally come off as condescending. But by the time I reached the end of the story, I was quite moved by it -- and this is speaking as someone who has never wanted to have children. Read in Diabolical Plots here. I hardly know where to start with this one. The main character, Tesla, makes lists as a way to cope. The first list Tesla shares is titled "How to tell your boyfriend you are in love with a robot. Tesla is probably asexual, in fact, which may be no easier to explain to parents than homosexuality would be. Kehrl, gives it exactly the right matter-of-fact tone that conveys not a lack of emotion, but rather a sort of numb despair. Listen or read here full transcript provided. A woman describes raising her daughter on a toxic, sterile alien planet, although it was never her intention to do so. On the other hand, maybe only people born to that kind of existence can truly be at peace with it, and maybe not even them as long as there are unhappy people around them who remember lost possibilities and experiences. Read here Other stories read in July Hamilton - "Non-Zero Probabilities" by N. SF anthology , edited by Kevin J.

Chapter 2 : blog.quintoapp.com: Be True to Me (): Adele Griffin: Books

Adele Griffin isn't a Goodreads Author (), but she does have a blog, so here are some recent posts imported from her feed.

October 9, Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers Pages: Mature young adult Keywords: We are just so different. But sometimes we make the same facial expressions, we share the same parental frustrations, and she will not let me forget when I tied her to a chair when she was little. She even mentioned this is her maid-of-honor speech at my wedding. Sometimes I wish I never succumbed to academic pressures I threw on myself until college was done. I wish I could pull off a pixie hair cut like she does. In the case of Alex and Thea, they formed a close-knit unit with their mother as they struggled to make ends meet with their father left. That solidarity has taken a back seat since their mother remarried a wealthy man who provides them with all the money and leather products and fancy cars they ever imagined. I know, I know. The extremes that Thea took and her off-the-wall behavior was embarrassing, bordering on psychotic. And Alex was her direct foil. Her extremes cut her off from everyone or so she thought and sent her down a dizzying spiral. Especially when Xander, a boy from her volunteer after-school program, starts to shed a positive light on this entire book. I was really hoping that Alex would learn to lean on him because she really needed someone to see through her bullshit because, in her own way, she was creating a mask of lies too. I was definitely holding my breath. But Griffin is such a detailed and skilled writer, I wanted to go back immediately and discover all the details she buried within her chapters. She took what could have easily been a superficial premise and gave it such rich layers. Kelly at Radiant Shadows:

Chapter 3 : Tighter by Adele Griffin

Adele Griffin's work as an assistant editor in children's books two decades ago inspired her to write her own middle grade and young adult novels, two of which have been named National Book.

So when Gil Burke, a handsome newcomer with uncertain ties to one of the most powerful families in the exclusive enclave of Sunken Haven, notices Jean—*not her sister*—Jean is smitten. Soon the girls are competing for much more than a tennis trophy, with higher stakes than either of them can imagine. Both girls are so competitive and smart yet so different in so many ways. Because of this, she developed a lot of insecurities and get jealous easily. Every summer, the Custis family spends their time on Sunken Haven, an exclusive beach town on Fire Island, along with other rich families. It will be her time to shine and be noticed. Fritz, on the other hand, is what Sunkies considered as an outsider. She is an adventurer and can be reckless at times. She is nursing a broken heart and is swearing off relationship for a while. Enter Gil, a dashing newcomer in the Sunkies circle, who is out to prove himself to his powerful and rich uncle and his family. Now, the girls are vying for a much higher stake than a tennis championship. I just know it will not be a light read and so I braced myself for some teenage drama. Sure enough, the drama is there. *Be True to Me* is not your typical YA story. If anything, they are civil to each other. They resented each other in a usual way that teenager does. The story was told in the alternating POVs of Jean and Fritz, which gives two different perspectives on things. I am not sure who to root for. She seems fun and level-headed. But the two main characters plus Gil appear to be selfish at times that it is hard for me to like them. And the fact that those two girls let that slip and continue to pine over him made me like them less. The plot is good and the setting is perfect which fits the story perfectly. The story focuses on Jean and Fritz and the love triangle which is interesting at first to see how things will play out for the characters. But after a while, it gets dragging. The twist though is nicely done but not actually surprising.

Chapter 4 : Young Adult Review: All You Never Wanted by Adele Griffin

Contributors include Paul Zindel, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama, Adele Griffin, a National Book Award Finalist, and Jon Scieszka, author of The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales, a New York Times "Notable Book of the Year."

Her newest novel, *Be True to Me*, is set on Fire Island in the fictional community of Sunken Haven; it follows teenage girls Jean and Fritz as they compete for the affections of a handsome newcomer named Gil. Having written nearly 30 books, has your approach or writing process changed? How does it vary depending on your audience or the format of the book? I love setting and writing about prickly relationships. Discussions of unlikeable characters always seem to happen with my books. I want to make my characters vital and complex enough to strike that chord with readers. I have a four- and nine-year-old, so I can test middle grade on them! I read a lot of middle grade and picture books out loud, so I find myself hearing and thinking about pace, dialogue, and the sound of words. Where do you begin when starting a new project? Do you feel that you gravitate towards a certain type of story or character? When I think about , I remember, as a character, my babysitter Maggie. She would come over with James Taylor albums under her arm and this denim poncho bag full of secrets, like her mentholated cigarettes and Bonne Bell lipstick. She would talk about her crush on Mick Jagger, boys, and parties. She taught us to play gin rummy. I thought she was so fabulous. When I saw how my six-year-old was reacting to her babysitter when [my family] was on Fire Island one summer, I was drawn back to that time. I imagined the teens of Sunken Haven and a haunting, memorable summer that would cast a shadow over their adult lives. Moments cast a spell. From there, it becomes a big game of connect the dots. How did you develop the setting of Sunken Haven? Did you have a connection to Fire Island already? Many Fire Island communities in were homogenous vacation retreats, which I wanted to set against the exuberant spirit of gay culture in the Pines [another Fire Island town] at that time. I wanted to make it a memoir of two eras and that very uneasy relationship the two [very different types of communities] had with each other. It felt very metaphorical to think about freedom and the bicentennial and what freedom meant to each community. I first visited Fire Island as an adult. Being a mom, observing all these young kids, I realized that the more things change the more they stay the same. I wanted to write a story about that awful or awkward or bizarre or lovely teen milestone experience of losing your virginity and what it signifies. What it gives and what it takes away. What we tell ourselves about it. We are as interested in those answers today as we were 40 years ago. Why set the novel in specifically? I had read a book called Tom Bianchi: Polaroids , which was about the gay experience in the s. It was so different from the very socially conventional communities on Fire Island. I thought it would be interesting to set one community against the other, then create all kinds of suspicion and unease. I was writing [*Be True to Me*] during Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco and was thinking about the hard road to that point, how we are standing on the shoulders of those who came before. The idea of there being a gate separating the two different communities, juxtaposing convention against the bohemian and artistically free, made Fire Island such a strange place. A strange place to be young. A strange place to be gay. The novel is told in the alternating perspectives of straight-laced, wealthy Jean and free-spirited, army brat Fritz. Why did you choose to focus on these two perspectives? It goes back to the idea of internal contradiction. I had a real sense of Gil [a southerner who comes to Sunken Haven to earn the respect of his previously estranged family]; he was my most autobiographical character because I felt like such an imposter growing up. I was the financial aid kid trying to be at the Great Gatsby party. It was always Jean and Fritz and then Gil, the silent other piece of the puzzle. What is it about the teen love triangle that continues to draw in readers? This is my first antagonistic relationship between two girls, but it was really important to me to balance the scale by incorporating a friendship [between Fritz and Julia, her longtime best friend]. That was the real challenge. So, even as I wrote the lore and competition between Jean and Fritz I was always layering in the Julia and Fritz friendship, balancing the scales. *Be True to Me* is as much a story of deep female friendship as a love triangle. Can you speak about the ways in which privilege and the lack of privilege inform the choices of the characters in *Be True to Me*? I recently reread *The Great Gatsby*. I had

remembered it as a very free book, full of people acting without fear of consequence. I really wanted to catch that feeling in *Be True to Me*. Yet, when I reread *The Great Gatsby* as a grown woman, I also saw the deep gender inequalities and infuriating and devastating social standards within. Jean and Fritz have limited options that come into play when fighting over Gil. Definitions of what you could and could not do were very narrow. Did you always envision the events of *Be True to Me* to span only the length of a summer? Yes, and yet my third act was so hard. In a summer so much can happen. You can really change and redefine and completely redirect. I wanted the story to be a bracketed, finite piece of time. I like to imagine Jean looking back on this summer. In fact, Jean is in my next book, 12 years later. Is your next book a companion to *Be True to Me*? Sexuality and first sexual experiences are both important elements of this story. Why is including scenes like these for teen readers important to you? People talk about the loss of their virginity. I remember every moment of my own experience and what my friends told me about theirs. You tell your story over and over again through your life. In *Be True to Me*, I thought it would be interesting to have both Fritz and Jean experience their first sexual experience, because it means different things for different people. Can you talk a bit about your role on the advisory board of NYC? I was on the board of directors for four years and am now on the advisory board. I am always interested in what NYC is doing because I love their programs and outreach. We develop fellowships in dance, music, writing, long-form journalism, and so much more. Amazing things happen at MacDowell. You recently created OMG Bookfest with a group of middle grade authors. What motivated you to launch this project? Sarah Mlynowski said she wanted to start a festival and already had a name. We all wanted to be part of it. It was organic and spontaneous. We wanted this to be really fun for readers. We love writing books for the middle grade audience and connecting with kids. With OMG Bookfest we can create memories kids can hold on to. What projects are you working on next? I also want to push ahead with more OMGs! I loved the time we spent in Columbus and am excited to visit another community for a day of storytelling and celebration of middle grade. *Be True to Me* by Adele Griffin.

Chapter 5 : Be True to Me by Adele Griffin – Des' Random Thoughts

As Skinny Does [short story] 1 copy; Mejor hablar a tiempo (Barco de Vapor Roja) Adele Griffin is composed of 2 names. You can examine and separate out names.

Or at least an E for Experienced. In other words, nothing had happened to me. By senior year, I wanted to change all that. Like Lizzy, I never sampled the city except for special occasions—a theater ticket, a class trip. Like Lizzy, I was an extremely fearful traveler. I worried about terrible outcomes, to the point where I saw peril in even the tamest micro-adventure. In a pre-GPS landscape, maps refused to make sense to me. Worst of all, the state of being lost because I always got lost meant a full-on panic attack. You learn how to make friends. You become deft at navigating your always-new school and neighborhood. I thrived on habit. I was comforted by all that was familiar. Only in my writing did I enjoy—via my characters—big risks and sweeping horizons. The real me, like Lizzy, preferred to stay put. And yet with high school graduation approaching, I knew I had to address my crippling timidity. I got on the local train. It was a thirty-five minute trip to 30th Street Station. Five minutes later, at the first stop, I got off. My heart was beating too hard. Sweat stuck my shirt to my back. I sat outside the station until I recovered to catch a train home. Every time I drafted another chapter, I had to revisit my most fragile high school moments. The time I bought myself a pair of coveted Doc Martens. When my bestie coaxed me into Philadelphia and we danced all night at a new club, then slept overnight in the train station not recommended. Senior year was risk and repeat. It was missing curfew and going a little wild. Lizzy might be stuck on the last page coping with a lot of nail-biting unknowns, but writing about young people is also a victory lap where optimism prevails. In fact, she has her whole life ahead of her.

Chapter 6 : blog.quintoapp.com: Amandine (): Adele Griffin: Books

Lily leans hard on her tall, skinny, Thoreau-loving, somewhat mystical boyfriend Caleb, who stoically bears the weight of her grief and sense of guilt. Universal themes of sibling rivalry, identity, romantic love and the importance of letting go are well-developed and deliciously riveting.

Chapter 7 : Adele Griffin Author Profile: News, Books and Speaking Inquiries

Adele Griffin, author of Picture the Dead, on LibraryThing. LibraryThing is a cataloging and social networking site for booklovers. As Skinny Does [short story] 1.

Chapter 8 : The Book Rat: TELL ME NO LIES by Adele Griffin GIVEAWAY & First Impressions | blog tour

Adele Griffin is the highly acclaimed author of almost thirty books for Young Adult and middle grade readers. Her works include the National Book Award Finalists Sons of Liberty and Where I Want to Be, as well as the popular Oodlethunks series for younger readers.

Chapter 9 : Eclectic Reviews by Amy Sisson: Short Fiction - July

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